

Zealand agricultural exports but also a very warm relationship.

China-U.S. Trade

Q. [*Inaudible*—WTO, are the U.S.-China trade talks proving more difficult than you had hoped? When and where will the next round of talks take place? And are you disappointed that there hasn't been a breakthrough?

President Clinton. Well, first of all, I think, on balance, this has been quite a good week for the United States in Asia, in the Asia-Pacific region. I did have a good meeting with President Jiang; we talked about things other than trade. One of our common interests, North Korea and avoiding the missile launch, appears to be headed in the right direction. We had progress in East Timor, and with the Prime Minister's leadership, we made the right commitments here at APEC. So I think this is good.

Now, on the Chinese-WTO talks, we have reengaged, and each side will now do whatever it thinks is right. You know, I don't totally control the timetable there, but I'm neither optimistic nor pessimistic about it. I am satisfied that we have reengaged, and we will do the best we can to just deal with this on the merits. We only had one or two issues before us when we couldn't quite get there in Washington. I still think it would be a better thing for China and a better thing for the world if they were in the WTO, but that is, of course, ultimately a decision that they have to make, not me. But we're talking; we're working; and I feel good about it.

Prime Minister Shipley. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's 180th news conference began at 3:30 p.m. in the courtyard at the Sign of the Takahe, a historic landmark and restaurant. In his remarks, he referred to Mike Moore, Director General, World Trade Organization; Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Gov. Roy Barnes of Georgia; and President Jiang Zemin of China. The President also referred to P5, Pacific 5, a proposed free trade area, which would include Australia, Chile, New Zealand, Singapore, and the United States. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this news conference.

Remarks at a State Dinner Hosted by Prime Minister Shipley in Christchurch

September 15, 1999

Thank you very much. Forgive my hoarseness.

First, Prime Minister, to you, your family, your government, and the people of New Zealand, I cannot thank you enough for the wonderful welcome that our party and my family members have received here. I apologize for having to rush home, but all of you know of the great storm that is now hitting the American coast. We had to move over 2.5 million people today in an attempt to minimize the loss of life. So I hope you'll forgive me, but let me say I have had a wonderful time here.

I'm glad that the fashion people approved of the way I wore the beautiful outfit you gave me. [*Laughter*] You know, I've been President 7 years now; I've been all over the world; I've received any number of items of clothing. And when you go to these meetings, very often the people who are there get the native dress, and we wear them. And usually, when I go home, there is someone making fun of how I looked in the dress of whatever country I was. This is the smartest outfit I've ever been given.

In the calendar cycle, we in the Northern Hemisphere are moving in the opposite direction, so we're coming into fall and winter. And if you watch the television, I'll probably be in your outfit several times more before the end of the year.

Let me say from the bottom of my heart, this has been a magical trip. I think every person, when he or she is young, dreams of finding some enchanted place, of beautiful mountains and breathtaking coastline and clear lakes and amazing wildlife, and most people give up on it because they never get to New Zealand. This has been an amazing thing for me and for all of us.

You might be interested to know that on the front page of the Washington Post today, there is a picture of my National Economic Adviser bungee jumping. [*Laughter*] We all had to remind him that he wasn't supposed to be Houdini and slip the cords, you know.

[*Laughter*] And so the whole story was about how much fun we were all having.

I hope that it will also be reported that at this meeting we took a strong stand for freedom and human rights in East Timor, and we are going in there, together with our friends from Australia and others in this region, to try to protect the integrity of the referendum for democracy and independence, and save lives. And I thank New Zealand for its leadership in this cause.

We also stood for the proposition that we can best lift the world's fortune by having more free and fair trade. And that, too, was profoundly important.

We celebrated today our partnership in Antarctic and talked about the importance of Antarctica to our whole future. I have mentioned often that, as all of you know probably, when the new millennium dawns, it will dawn first on New Zealand. I will be proud to cross that bridge into the 21st century with you, knowing that we will be partners for peace and prosperity and a more decent and humane future for all our children. And I thank you for that partnership.

I'd like to ask all of you to join me in a toast to the Prime Minister, to her wonderful husband, to her government, and to the people of New Zealand.

[*At this point, the President offered a toast.*]

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:56 p.m. in a hangar at the Wigram Air Museum. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Shipley's husband, Burton. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the Prime Minister. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on House Action on Campaign Finance Reform Legislation

September 15, 1999

I am heartened that the House of Representatives rejected the politics of business as usual by passing real, bipartisan campaign finance reform. Passage of the Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform legislation is

a victory for the American people. Now I urge the Senate Republican leadership to let a majority rule by allowing the Senate to take an up-or-down vote on this historic legislation. The time has come for Congress to redeem the public's faith in the health of our democracy.

Statement on United Nations Security Council Action on East Timor

September 15, 1999

Late last night the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved Resolution 1264, which authorizes a multinational force to restore stability in East Timor, at the invitation of the Indonesian Government. Now we must move with purpose and dispatch to protect the innocent people whose lives are still threatened by those seeking to overturn the results of a fair vote. I welcome the passage of Resolution 1264 and look forward to working with the Government of Australia and others in the international community to put together an effective force. I have just been briefed by Admiral Blair of CINCPAC on our close cooperation with Australia, and I hope the force can deploy in a matter of days. The United States is prepared to contribute to this operation, and we are discussing with our Australian allies and the Congress an appropriate U.S. role.

Remarks on Hurricane Floyd in Honolulu, Hawaii

September 15, 1999

Good morning. Let me first say it's good to be back on American soil after a very good week at the APEC conference in New Zealand. I'm especially anxious to get back to Washington to help to deal with the problems caused by Hurricane Floyd.

I have just had telephone calls with our FEMA Director, James Lee Witt, who has been giving me regular updates. And as you know, the storm currently, in its rain form, is battering Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, and is targeting the entire Northeast.